

Please replace the Abstract with the following marked-up Abstract.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A cutting head mounting and supporting ring assembly having an interlocking joint arrangement for mounting the cutting head on a food slicing machine. The ring assembly includes a support ring having a plurality of circumferentially spaced, radially extending flange segments having a flange end portion inclined relative to the axis thereof, and a mounting ring having a plurality of circumferentially spaced axially extending protrusions having a protrusion end portion inclined relative to the axis thereof. The flange and protrusion surfaces of the flange segments and the protrusions are ~~complimentary~~ complementary shaped and arranged to mutually engage face-to-face to define scarf type joint connections when they are interdigitated.